

A scenic sunset over a beach. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and the ocean. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. In the foreground, there are sand dunes covered with tall, green grasses that are slightly out of focus. The ocean is visible in the middle ground, with gentle waves lapping at the shore.

Site Specific Proposal

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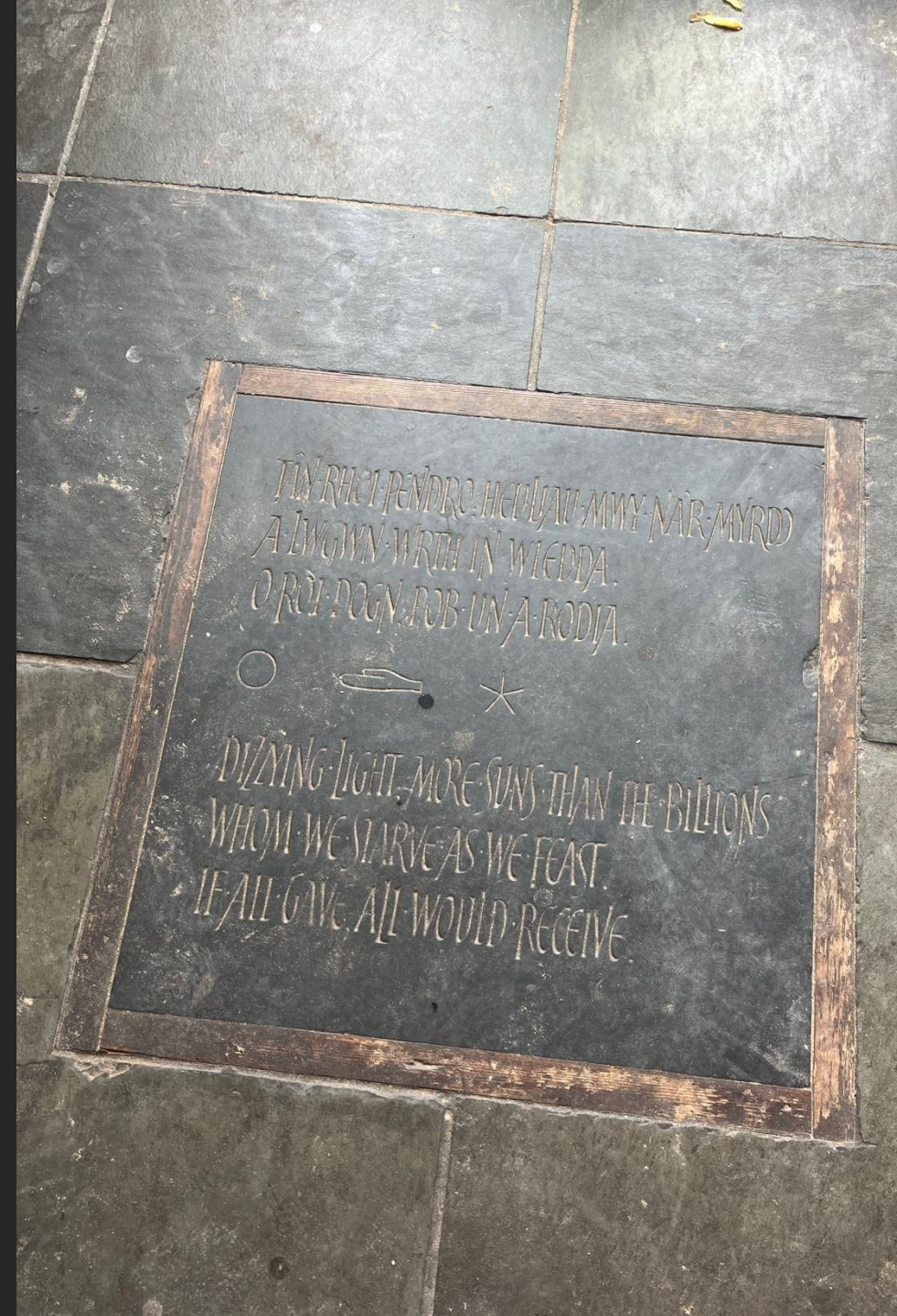


Site

For my site I have decided to pick the observatory. This location is a restaurant and bar which has been converted into a beautiful beach side area. I have been here many times since being at university and find it somewhere where I can truly relax, looking at the vast view of the sea. I have been here with friends making this a place holding fond memories for me. The features in the bottom bit of the site is filled with different items from the original build before the renovation. It has a warm, wholesome feel to it, having sofas and fireplaces in the room, emphasizing the coziness of the room. As you walk up the winding staircase, which is from the original building, there is an upstairs bar area looking over at the sea. This is the main area where the exhibition space would be held. This has plenty of room for people to walk around and take moments outside if they wish to look at the view. However, the stairs limit anyone with a wheelchair or push chair to get up the stairs.

Research

I did some research into the history behind the observatory as I already knew that it was an older building that had been converted, which was further confirmed by a manager I talked to when I was visiting. I found most of my information on a website about Swansea bay. According to "[Visitswanseabay.com](https://visitswanseabay.com). (2023). *The observatory*." it was first designed in 1989 by Robin Campbell with European Heritage grant. This ended up being the biggest observatory in Wales. There were two towers and was used regularly, studying astronomy. This was then loaned to the Swansea Astronomical society from 1993 – 2010. This then eventually was passed onto Swansea council. In 2022, it was sold to a businessman called Noah Redfern who redesigned this into an aesthetic restaurant, which is how it stands today. One of the workers I spoke to there had said that they had kept some of the features from the outside of the old building and kept it in the rebuild to keep the same element and feel that the old building had.





Theme & Context

For this space there are lots of different ways that it can be used, especially for a group project. The space that a person working at the Observatory said I would be able to use, is set up as an upstairs bar vibe with space to walk around. I had the idea of using the wall on the stairs on the way up to the top floor, enticing people into the exhibition area to investigate more of the work displayed on the walls on the way up. The main concepts I think would work for this area are:

- 1: Working with the people that come here, perhaps photographing them, creating a portrait collection of the customers, creating a feel of community throughout. They would be black and white and would be put on the walls around the venue.
- 2: Focusing more on the past architectures of the building, perhaps looking at how it has changed over the years compared to the final build today.
- 3: The colours of the building could be focused on, creating a more abstract view of the place. This could lead onto someone making a collage of the palette of the building, perhaps reflecting the warmth and vibe behind the venue.

I have already talked to people that work there including a manager about what the potential plans are for the exhibition. I think this has great potential and I would love this to be the place that holds one of the group exhibitions.

